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4 May 1963  
TS-186408

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Situation Summary on Developments in Laos and North Vietnam During the Period 1 through 3 May 1963.

1. This situation summary included certain airfields, road networks, and military installations, principally in northern Laos and adjacent North Vietnam. The activity reported was sparse and no new light is thrown on the degree of North Vietnamese or Chinese involvement in Laos. The construction by the Chinese of an airstrip near the Thai border and road construction southward to Ban Houei Sai previously reported in other information was not confirmed.

#### Laos

2. The condition of numerous airfields was reported. These include the airfields at Luang Prabang, Muong Sai, Ban Nam Bac, Muong Sayaboury, Nam Tha and various small sod strips. No unusual activity was reported at any of these airfields. The only aircraft reported were an unidentified light plane and two helicopters at an unidentified sod strip east of Muong Kassy. (See map)

3. There was no indication of unusual military activity in the Xieng Khouang area. Several vehicular training areas were reported but not more than five or six vehicles were observed at any one time.

4. Sporadic monitoring of the road northeast from Ban Houei Sai toward the Chinese border was achieved but no new construction was noted. However, on the basis of the preliminary information in the situation summary, it seems that the area in which the Chinese have been reportedly building a road--between Muong Sing and Nam Tha--may not have been observed.

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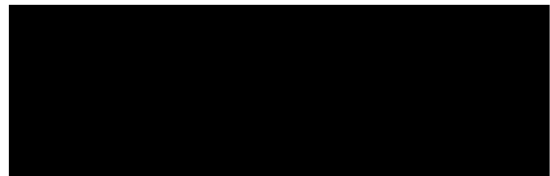
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North Vietnam

5. Several North Vietnamese airfields were reported including those at Dien Bien Phu, Na San and Lai Chau. No unusual activity was reported at any of these installations although approximately 35 new storage buildings have been constructed around Na San airfield.

6. The military installation at Dien Bien Phu consists of about 150 various buildings including barracks and storage buildings and another farther to the east at Thuan Chau contains about 200 barracks and other buildings. The establishment of several military camps along the road near Thuan Chau could indicate some augmentation of forces in this area, but these could also be labor force camps.

7. Reported road conditions in the Dien Bien Phu/Sam Neua area revealed no significant vehicular activity within North Vietnam or from North Vietnam into Laos.



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